

**REMARKS**

Applicants are submitting this amendment in connection with a Request for Continued Examination.

By way of the foregoing claim amendments, Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 14, 15, 16, and 18 have been amended for clarity. In addition, new Claim 19 has been added to the application. New Claim 19 recites the features of Claim 1 and Claim 5, and is believed to define patentable subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request renewed examination for the newly submitted claims.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, or should the Examiner believe a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that she be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. (Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

- a first memory for storing image data;
- a second memory for storing image forming conditions;
- an image output unit for [outputting] printing image data stored in a first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory;
- command means for generating a command of discarding the image data [being output] to be printed from the image output unit; and
- a controller for discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by command means, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory.

5. (Amended) The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 3, wherein the first memory stores a plurality of image data, and the output control means gives priority to the newly inputted image data to be [output] printed under the maintained image forming conditions over the rest of the image data.

7. (Amended) The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data [being output] to be printed.

8. (Amended) The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 6, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of discarding the image data [being output] to be printed after the reading operation for another original has been completed.

14. (Amended) The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data [being output] to be printed.

15. (Amended) The image forming apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein if the image reader is reading another original, the command means generates a command of discarding the image data [being output] to be printed after the reading operation for another original has been completed.

16. (Amended) An image forming method, comprising the steps of:  
storing image data in an image memory;  
storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory;  
[outputting] printing an image on a paper, based on the image data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the memory;  
generating an command of discarding the image data whose image is [being output] to be printed;

erasing the image data from the image memory in response to the command, while  
maintaining the associated image forming conditions in the memory;

acquiring new image data and storing the new image data in the image memory; and  
[outputting] printing an image on a paper, based on the newly acquired image data,  
under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory.

18. (Amended) The image forming method as recited in claim 16, further  
comprising the step of [outputting] printing image data of another print job on a waiting list  
after the newly acquired image data has completely been [output] printed.